DATE: MARCH 8, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL CONTROL AT THE INTERSECTION OF HOLLAND LANE AND JAMIESON AVENUE

ISSUE: Council consideration of recommendations to install traffic signal control at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue pursuant to City Code Section 10-2-7.

BACKGROUND: As growth has occurred in Eisenhower East, staff has continued to monitor traffic conditions in the area with regard to changes in intersection traffic controls needed to safely accommodate the increasing volumes of vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic. In light of conditions that now exist at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue, staff recommends that traffic signal control be installed at this intersection to replace the existing two-way stop control. This recommendation was presented to the Traffic and Parking Board for consideration and public hearing on February 27. After receiving the staff recommendation and public testimony, the Board voted unanimously to recommend City Council approval of the installation of traffic signal control at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue pursuant to City Code Section 10-2-7.

If approved by Council, design and construction of this traffic signal will require approximately six months to complete.

DISCUSSION: The intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue has experienced a significant increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic demand due to the continuing growth in Eisenhower East, and staff has received numerous requests for installation of a traffic signal from both residents and business tenants in the area. The recent opening of the Whole Foods store has added to traffic in the area.

Staff has completed a traffic signal warrant review and an engineering study of this intersection based on the standards and guidelines set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for installation of traffic signal control, finding that:
1. Conditions at this intersection satisfy the minimum criteria necessary to warrant consideration of traffic signal control; and
2. Implementation of this traffic signal would, in staff's opinion, improve the operation and safety of the intersection.

The MUTCD, adopted under 23 U.S.C. 109(d) and 402(a) as the national standard for all traffic control devices installed on facilities open to public travel, defines eight factors or warrants that may indicate the need for traffic signal control at an intersection. These are:

- Warrant 1: Eight-Hour Vehicular Volume
- Warrant 2: Four-Hour Vehicular Volume
- Warrant 3: Peak Hour
- Warrant 4: Pedestrian Volume
- Warrant 5: School Crossing
- Warrant 6: Coordinated Signal System
- Warrant 7: Crash Experience
- Warrant 8: Roadway Network

A traffic signal warrant review was performed for this intersection using the criteria contained in the MUTCD. This warrant review determined that two of the eight traffic signal warrants were currently met at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Avenue. These were Warrant 1: Eight-Hour Vehicular Volume, and Warrant 2: Four-Hour Vehicular Volume.

While satisfaction of one or more of these warrants does not in itself justify the installation of a traffic signal, it did indicate the need for a detailed engineering study to determine whether traffic signal control would improve the overall safety and/or operation of the intersection. Based on the findings of this engineering study, staff determined that traffic signal control at this intersection will:

1. Improve vehicular safety, potentially preventing an average of two right-angle crashes per year;
2. Improve pedestrian safety by providing safe crossing opportunities with adequate signal-protected crossing time;
3. Mitigate sight-distance limitations created by structures adjacent to the intersection;
4. Better serve the sharing of intersection right-of-way among conflicting traffic movements;
5. Not significantly decrease intersection capacity or increase overall intersection delay, and
6. Not adversely affect coordinated traffic flow through adjacent signal-controlled intersections.
**FISCAL IMPACT:** The estimated construction cost of this traffic signal is $100,000 which will be funded out of the “Traffic Signal Maintenance and Traffic Control Computer” project in the Approved FY 2006 - FY 2011 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The annual operating cost for this signal is estimated to be $2,500 and will be part of the T&ES budget.

**STAFF:**
Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES
Tom Culpepper, P.E., Deputy Director, T&ES
Bob Garbacz, P.E., Chief, Transportation Division, T&ES
COA Contact Us: need for a traffic light at Holland and Jameson

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 11:25:11] IP Address: [65.213.211.218]
Response requested: []

First Name: Joseph
Last Name: Kidd
Street Address: 1680 Duke St.
   City: Alexandria
   State: va
   Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6239
Email Address: jkidd@nsba.org

Subject: need for a traffic light at Holland and Jameson

Please install a traffic light at the intersection of Holland and Jameson. I work on Holland and it is necessary for me to turn left onto Holland from Jameson in order to reach our parking lot. It is very difficult to see traffic approaching from the left or from the right at this intersection and the odds of having an accident at that intersection seem unacceptably high. Thank you for your attention.
COA Contact Us: installing a traffic light at Jameson and Holland

First Name: Erica
Last Name: Sorohan
Street Address: 6707 Donegan Ct.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22315
Phone: 703-838-6741
Email Address: esorohan@nsba.org
Subject: installing a traffic light at Jameson and Holland

I work at the National School Boards Association on the corner of Duke and Holland. Our parking lot is off of Holland.

The changes in traffic patterns have made the Jameson/Holland intersection increasingly dangerous.

Comments: Last September 28, I was struck by a car while I was walking across Holland at that intersection. I was in the cross-walk when a car turning left onto Holland from Jameson hit me from behind. The driver was cited.

I was lucky not to have suffered more serious injuries but I continue to feel the effects. Installing a traffic light at that intersection is imperative for the safety of pedestrians, as well as individuals negotiating the intersection in their vehicles.
COA Contact Us: Traffic light at Holland Lane and Jamieson St.

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:55:33] IP Address: [65.213.211.176]
Response requested: []

First Name: Sally
Last Name: Zakariya
Street Address: 536 N. Littleton St.
City: Arlington
State: VA
Zip: 22203
Phone: 703-838-6231
Email Address: szakariya@nsba.org

Subject: Traffic light at Holland Lane and Jamieson St.

I have worked at the National School Boards Association, 1680 Duke St., Alexandria, for many years and have been delighted to see the area "grow up." However, the way traffic is currently being routed around the new Whole Food store makes it very difficult indeed for all of us who work at Duke Street Square to access our parking lot, which opens onto Holland Lane.

The increased traffic, combined with obstructed views due to construction, makes the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson St. difficult to maneuver safely. I have had a couple of close calls there, and I know others here at NSBA have had the same problem.

Installing a traffic light at Holland Lane and Jamieson St. would regulate traffic flow and increase safety at this troublesome intersection. I urge you to adopt this measure.

Thank you,
Sally Zakariya
From: <jvillani@nsba.org>, <alexvamayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>, <councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>, <paulcsmedberg@aol.com>, <rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov>, <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov>

Recipients: COA Contact Us: Trafic Light at Holland Lane and Jameson St.

Date: 10:52:53 AM Today

Subject: COA Contact Us: Trafic Light at Holland Lane and Jameson St.

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:52:53] IP Address: [65.213.211.161]

Response requested: []

First Name: Joseph
Last Name: Villani
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street (Office)
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6769
Email Address: jvillani@nsba.org

Subject: Traffic Light at Holland Lane and Jameson St.

As the deputy executive director at the National School Boards Association, housed at 1680 Duke St., I strongly support the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jameson St. This intersection has become very hazardous for those of us who must come through it daily to get to our office parking lot.

The extensive construction on Holland Lane has created a situation that makes it unsafe for pedestrians to cross Holland Lane at Jameson, and the ever-increasing traffic on Holland Lane makes it equally unsafe to turn left or right from Jameson onto Holland. A traffic signal would regulate traffic on Holland Lane, making the situation safer for everyone involved, without disrupting traffic.

Comments: Thank you for your consideration.
COA Contact Us: Hearing Tonight (March 14) on Traffic Related Issues

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:49:12] IP Address: [65.213.211.21]
Response requested: []

First Name: Kathleen
Last Name: Branch
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314-3493
Phone: 703.838.6735
Email Address: kbranch@nsba.org
Subject: Hearing Tonight (March 14) on Traffic Related Issues

Dear Mayor Euille; Vice Mayor Pepper and Council Members:

Thank you for holding a hearing on the Traffic Related Issues in Alexandria this evening.

As an individual who is employed by the National School Boards Association, my office looks out over the intersection of Holland Lane and Jameson Street. Throughout the day and as I write this letter, I have witnessed so many close calls between both pedestrians and motorists at this particular corner. In fact, one of our own employees was hit by a car walking across the intersection a few months ago and the motorist making a left onto Holland Lane was at fault.

It is clear that the recent developments in this area have made this a congested and confusing corner.
I HIGHLY recommend that you install a traffic light at the corner of Holland Lane and Jameson Street. In the end, I think it will save the City of Alexandria money and the lives of those who must frequently pass through this intersection.

Thank you for considering my suggestion.

Respectfully yours,
Kathleen Branch
<SClubb@NSBA.org>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<paulcsmedberg@aol.com>, <rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov>,
<jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov>

Subject: COA Contact Us: Traffic Light on Holland and Jamieson

Date: 10:38:11 AM Today

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**COA Contact Us: Traffic Light on Holland and Jamieson**

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:38:11] IP Address: [65.213.211.35]

Response requested: []

First Name: Susan
Last Name: Clubb
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6167
Email Address: SClubb@NSBA.org

Subject: Traffic Light on Holland and Jamieson
I need to turn right at this intersection to get into my parking garage across from the Whole Foods. I have sat at this intersection for over 11 minutes waiting for the 9-12 cars in front of me to make a left turn.

Comments: This is extremely frustrating. I used to be able to turn left from Duke onto Holland and directly into my parking garage, but now an island has been installed and I have to take the long way around the block.

I only live by Mount Vernon and my previous 12 minute commute can be over 1/2 hour now!
COA Contact Us: traffic light/holland and jameson

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:37:33] IP Address: [65.213.211.24]

Response requested: []

First Name: Anne
Last Name: Bryant
Street Address: National School Boards Association
               1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6700
Email Address: abryant@nsba.org
Subject: traffic light/holland and jameson

It is terribly important that a traffic light be installed at Holland Lane and Jameson St in Alexandria. The traffic coming down Holland is dangerous and our employees need to be able to turn right from Jameson to Holland, as it is the only way to access our parking lot. This is a mandatory issue and we appreciate your holding hearings tonight. Many of us have commitments which conflict with the meeting, so please include our emails in your deliberations. Anne Bryant, Executive Director, NSBA

Comments:
COA Contact Us: Traffic Light

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:37:29] IP Address: [65.213.211.11]

Response requested: []

First Name:  Sally
Last Name:    Beavers
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street
City:        Alexandria
State:      Virginia
Zip:      22314
Phone:    703-838-6796
Email Address: sbeavers@nsba.org

Subject: Traffic Light

I work at NSBA which is at the corner of Holland and Duke Street. The traffic on Holland has gotten really bad for people who walk back and forth to the Metro Station. If you would put a light at the corner of Holland and Jameson street, this will slow down the traffic that we have to fight just to get across the street. Even when we try to cross the street, towards Table Talk, the cars keep coming through the light even though they have a sign that says, NO TURN ON RED WHEN A PEDESTRIAN IS PRESENT. The cars come down Holland towards Duke really fast.

Please help.
COA Contact Us: Duke and Holland and City Block Construction

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:37:07]  IP Address: [65.213.211.55]

Response requested: []

First Name: Deborah
Last Name: Finkel
Street Address: National School Boards Association
  1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6233
Email Address: dfinkel@nsba.org
Subject: Duke and Holland and City Block Construction

There are many points of danger that exist and accidents will happen.
Duke St and Holland - people are still making U turns whenever they can; I've seen a van and car
drive in reverse when missing their turn into Whole Foods from Duke street back to the turn
into Whole Foods on Holland Lane.

Janey has become a bottleneck with drivers doing
illegal turns and driving aggressively to go
forward, turn around, cut off people to get in front
to turn into Whole Foods. Janey has become an
important artery.

We've had one of our employees hit while
crossing the streets.
The more frustrated drivers get the more
aggressively they drive and simply don't see the
pedestrian until it's too late.

On the side streets in the Time Life area to do a
turn around - coming West on Duke towards Old
Town right into the Time Life area - the lanes are not well defined - people are turning left for the right lane realizing they are in the wrong lane - the 4-way stops are not being respected - there are many accidents waiting to happen. Pedestrians beware here too.

I see absolutely NO police presence to guide drivers. Now that the trial is going on the Eisenhower construction by the movie theater AMC22 is another accident waiting to happen - people pull out and I've seen large 4 wheel drive vehicles actually climb over the cement middle blocks to go in the other directions.

There are a lot of illegal driving maneuvers from very frustrated and irresponsible drivers creating havoc and harm.

I understand the majority of the police are at the court house with the trial and hope that the police will be out more in force after the trial. People will get hurt.

Thank you,
From: <bmoody@nsba.org>

<alexmayor@aol.com>, <delpepper@aol.com>, <council@joycewoodson.net>,
<councilmangaines@aol.com>, <council@krupicka.com>, <macdonaldcouncil@msn.com>,
<paulsmedberg@aol.com>, <rose.boyd@alexandriava.gov>,
<jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>, <tom.raycroft@alexandriava.gov>

Recipients: COA Contact Us: Traffic light at Holland and Jamieson

Date: 10:30:45 AM Today

**COA Contact Us: Traffic light at Holland and Jamieson**

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 10:30:45] IP Address: [65.213.211.169]

Response requested: []

First Name: Barbara
Last Name: Moody
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6722
Email Address: bmoody@nsba.org

Subject: Traffic light at Holland and Jamieson

I am writing to implore you to install a traffic light at the corner of Holland and Jamieson. I work at NSBA on Duke Street, but I pay for parking at the Carlyle building lot, and I have had NUMEROUS close calls when trying to cross the street. Traffic flies along Holland, and most cars pay no attention to the crosswalk or pedestrians cautiously venturing out into it! I have been nearly hit on several occasions, and know that others have also. This light is much needed on this very busy intersection!!

Thank you!
Barbara Moody
Manager, Marketing Communications
NSBA
COA Contact Us: Traffic light at Holland & Jameson

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 11:42:48] IP Address: [65.213.211.160]

Response requested: []

First Name: Carole
Last Name: VanDyke
Street Address: 10911 Carters Oak Way
City: Burke
State: VA
Zip: 22015
Phone: 703-838-6775
Email Address: cvandyke@nsba.org
Subject: Traffic light at Holland & Jameson

To Whom It May Concern:
Please seriously consider installing a light at this intersection. The right of way is always in question and visibility is poor with the new construction. I'm always nervous turning left from Jameson onto Holland. I'm not a big proponent of traffic lights and usually think there are far too many but in this instance, I believe one is necessary.

Carole VanDyke
COA Contact Us: Proposed Traffic Light at intersection of Holland La. & Jameson St.

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 12:33:31] IP Address: [65.213.211.147]
Response requested: []

First Name: Carole
Last Name: Stover
Street Address: 2403 Ross St.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22306
Phone: 703-768-6075
Email Address: cstover@nsba.org
Subject: Proposed Traffic Light at intersection of Holland La. & Jameson St.

Hello --

I understand that the City of Alexandria is considering putting a stoplight at the intersection of Holland La. and Jameson St. As a staff member of the National School Boards Association (1680 Duke St), I would welcome this improvement to the somewhat dangerous traffic situation that exists at that intersection now.

Comments: When I walk at lunch, I find it very difficult to cross Jameson St and Holland St. My car has also been hit at that intersection -- a car that was coming out of Jameson trying to cross over Holland darted out very quickly and hit me as I was travelling along Holland Lane towards Eisenhower. Traffic is somewhat chaotic and unpredictable at this intersection for both drivers and walkers and I strongly believe a stop light would greatly help this situation.
COA Contact Us: Support for Traffic Light at Holland Lane & Jameson

Response requested: []

First Name: Brenda
Last Name: Greene
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6756
Email Address: bgreene@nsba.org
Subject: Support for Traffic Light at Holland Lane & Jameson

I've had the pleasure of working in the City of Alexandria since 1983 when I joined the staff of the National School Boards Association, one of the pioneer associations to establish roots in Alexandria. It's been a fascinating and often rocky ride experiencing the growth of Alexandria surrounding our building at Holland & Duke. Recently, as I know you are aware, the ride has gotten much rockier....and the walking is really dangerous.

With the Patent Office and surrounding development -- including the recent arrival of Whole Foods -- I am very concerned about pedestrian safety as well as safety in my automobile as I drive to and from work. Most importantly, pedestrian safety seems to be an afterthought in Alexandria. Last year, when the construction of Whole Foods closed the sidewalk on the south side of Duke St., I and several others basically had to beg your public safety staff to install a walk sign to enable people to cross from our corner to the north side of Duke. Now, we seem to be in the same mode begging for a
traffic light to protect pedestrians and to facilitate safe driving at Holland & Jameson.

NSBA staff have had too many close calls crossing that intersection. This has been an increasing problem since the opening of Whole Foods, whose customers seem to put their speedy entrance to and exit from the parking garage at a higher priority than pedestrian safety.

I am pleased to see that your Traffic and Parking Board recommended approval of this traffic light and I encourage you -- in fact I plead that you -- approve this light. I also urge you to request staff to expedite the design and construction of the traffic light so that it can be operationalized before anyone is seriously injured. Six months would be a very long time to wait given the current circumstances.
COA Contact Us: Traffic light at Holland Lane and Jameson St.

First Name: Marilee
Last Name: Rist
Street Address: 38 Wolfe Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6728
Email Address: mrist@nsba.org
Subject: Traffic light at Holland Lane and Jameson St.

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

As a resident of the City of Alexandria and an employee of the National School Boards Association, I am writing to urge you to expedite the installation of a traffic light at the corner of Holland Lane and Jameson Street. I must turn right from Jameson onto Holland each morning to access the NSBA parking lot, and it is a dangerous intersection. Cross traffic on Holland does not stop (and sometimes moves dangerously fast). Vehicles on Jameson are at the mercy!

Comments:

I have always been proud to live and work in the City of Alexandria, but it has been difficult to defend my city government among my co-workers when the city has been slow to respond to the concerns we have expressed about this intersection. I remain hopeful that my city government will act promptly and demonstrate the kind of leadership that it has done in so many other areas.
COA Contact Us: Proposed Light at Holland Lane and Jamieson Street

First Name: Barbara
Last Name: Hunter
Street Address: 1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6153
Email Address: bhunter@nsba.org
Subject: Proposed Light at Holland Lane and Jamieson Street

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Pepper, and City Council Members:

Some of you may remember me as the former director of communications for the Alexandria City Schools. Today, I am writing to you about my serious concern for the safety of pedestrians who attempt to cross at the intersection of Holland Lane and Jamieson Street. For a period of about 10 months, I had to park in a garage near that intersection and walk to my office at the National School Boards Association at 1680 Duke Street. Because there is only a two-way stop on Jamieson, cars would sail down Holland Lane toward Duke Street well above the speed limit of 25 mph. At least a dozen times, I would attempt to cross Holland in the cross walk and have to retreat because of the high speed of the cars.

Last September, my colleague, Erica Sorohan, was actually hit by a car while she was crossing Holland Lane in the cross walk.

In addition, cars on Jamieson attempting to cross over Holland often have to use a major spurt of
speed to avoid getting hit. This, too, does not bode well for pedestrians who are trying to safely cross the street.

At the minimum, a four-way stop is needed to calm traffic at that intersection. A stop light would be ideal. I appreciate your considering this request. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Many thanks,
Barbara Hunter
COA Contact Us: Proposed Traffic Signal at Holland and Jamieson

Time: [Tue Mar 14, 2006 15:40:08] IP Address: [65.213.211.65]

Response requested: []

First Name: Terry
Last Name: Hilmer
Street Address: National School Boards Association
               1680 Duke Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-838-6795
Email Address: thilmer@nsba.org
Subject: Proposed Traffic Signal at Holland and Jamieson

Honorable Mayor, Vice Mayor and Council Members:

I am writing in support of the installation of the traffic signal at the referenced intersection. One of our staff was struck by a car at this intersection last Fall as she attempted to cross the street. Pedestrians are particularly vulnerable with only two stop signs to control at this busy intersection.

Comments: Vehicle traffic at this intersection appears to be increasing in both volume and speed. The combination of both, in addition to the presence of pedestrians, cyclists and construction related traffic begs for increased regulation of traffic to protect public safety.

Sincerely,
Terry L. Hilmer
Director, Office Services and Property Management
National School Boards Association